

Lillian Russell's Racing Comedy Wildfire

Made into a Serial Story for The Evening World

By John Murray

Founded on "Wildfire," a racing comedy by George Broadhurst and George V. Hobart, now running at the Liberty Theatre.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. Margaret Barrington, a beautiful young widow, is privately separating her husband's racing stable under the name of John Duffy. Her former trainer, Mr. Sanderson, is engaged to Ralph Woodhurst, whose racing interests are in the hands of his father. Other guests at Mrs. Barrington's country house are Sanderson and Garrison, trainers of hers. Garrison plans to buy Wildfire, Mrs. Barrington's best race horse. He makes an offer which is proposed to Mrs. Barrington. He thinks Duffy is owner of the horse and offers to "break" him. Duffy tries to make Wildfire low the owner. Mrs. Barrington cleverly tells him that she is the owner. She tells him that she has a son, John Duffy, who is a racing stable. She tells him that she has a son, John Duffy, who is a racing stable. She tells him that she has a son, John Duffy, who is a racing stable.

CHAPTER XVII.

"He Wins!"

THE entrance of Mrs. Barrington carrying a package in her hand prevented any comment from Donovan on the strange actions and words of Sanderson. She said as she held out the package: "Here is what I have for you." Donovan opened it and gazed with mixed awe and delight at a beautiful gold, diamond-studded watch. "See, isn't it a beauty! Just what I wanted, too." "I'm glad of that," replied Mrs. Barrington heartily. "Oh, you know I wanted it!" Very sincerely she spoke. "I shall always remember your kindness." "Some here, and if anybody should ever leave you another stable, Mrs. Barrington—Donovan looked up with a knowing smile. "Don't suggest it. She frowned and held up her hands in horror. Donovan laughed and moved toward the door. "You never can tell," he chuckled, "but if they should, or if you should need me in any way, just drop me a picture post-card, and in the morning you will find me on the doorstep pulling the bell down." Mrs. Barrington watched him leave the room with the feeling that this was the severance of all ties with Wildfire and her stable. It distressed her to think that she was no longer an "owner." Hereafter in the racing game she should be merely a spectator. She loved the sport, but in the future all zest would be gone.

to you to marry one man while another's image is in your heart? Be just to him, to me, and to yourself. Do you love him?" She did not answer. He continued: "Look at me—do you?" "I—I—" she began. Mrs. Barrington tried to look him in the eyes, but her heart failed her. She could not do to him. Her love for John Garrison was too strong to be concealed. She dropped her gaze. Sanderson sighed deeply. "That's enough. He wins! Tell him so." He left the room without a backward glance. "I'm so sorry!" Mrs. Barrington, greatly distressed, watched him go. She looked at the telephone. She was warring with herself whether to use it or not. Picking up the directory, she found a number, then closed the book with a sigh. Reconsidering her determination, she picked up the receiver and to Central said: "Give me Hempstead 33. Is that Hempstead 33?" "Yes, Mr. Garrison there?" "Is Mr. Garrison there?" "Yes, Mr. Garrison." "Ask him to step to the phone please. 'Hello! Hello! Is that you, Mr. Garrison?" She paused before asking whimsically: "Can't you guess who it is?" "That's right. It is—" Garrison interrupted her with a question which she repeated: "What do I want? Why, I—I have a message for you from Mr. Sanderson. He said I was to deliver it to you as soon as possible." "What is it? I—I thought you might want to come over to the house and get it in person." "Yes, that's what I said—come to the house." "You will? Good!" "You needn't run—I'll wait." Mrs. Barrington laughed to herself. She was very happy. Garrison seemed to be as eager to see her as she was to meet him. He had not heard her reply distinctly, so she repeated it: "I said I'll wait." "What's that? You've a message for me?" "You have? What is it?" "Oh, go on. Do tell me!" "You've bought the John Duffy stable?" "Splendid! Wildfire will stay in the family, after all." Realizing her blunder, she clapped her hand over her mouth, her eyes sparkling with merriment. "What do I mean? Come over and I'll explain everything." "Of course I want you—come quickly—quickly." She hung up the receiver and with a happy sigh murmured: "He is coming. He is coming!" (The End.)



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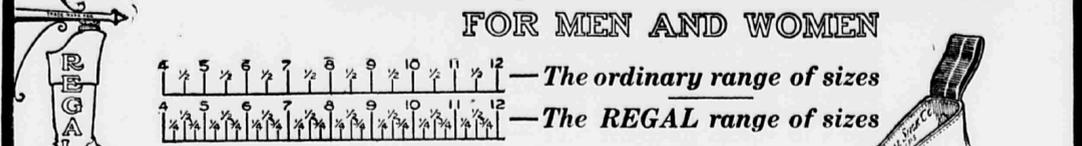
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